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thought in that land so fruitful in speculations, the volume is deserving of very high praise. A dry subject is made attractive, and an obscure subject is made clear. The work is divided into three parts. The first and shortest section treats of the German Universities, their organization, their professional system, their student life, their relation to the State and the Church; with sketches of the most important and celebrated institutions, Berlin, Halle, Bonn, Göttingen, Leipsic, Jena, Heidelberg, and Tübingen. This section is exceedingly interesting, if the details are not very new. The second section treats of the sects, parties, controversies, manœuvres, strifes, and religious assemblies, which belong to a description of the revival of Evangelical faith in German Protestantism. This section contains some novel information, but will not be entertaining to many American readers. The conflict between high and moderate Lutheranism is incomparably less important than the former conflict of Orthodoxy with Rationalism. The third section is a series of short biographical sketches of the leading Evangelical divines, mostly now living. These are well done, although they might have been made more exact and thorough. We are surprised that DeWette should have been left out of a list to which Olshausen is admitted.

The volume is embellished with a curious picture of Neander at his lecture-desk.

7.—*Two Years Ago*. By the REV. CHARLES KINGSLEY. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857. 12mo. pp. 563.

EVERYTHING which Mr. Kingsley writes is worth reading, for its originality, freshness, and tropical gorgeousness of style, if for nothing more. Nothing that he writes will satisfy those critics who are guided by the established rules of taste and order. As a work of art, "*Two Years Ago*" is open to very great objections. It is redundant in its descriptions of scenery, inconsistent in its drawing of character, overcrowded with personages, and improbable in its incidents. It has too much material for successful workmanship, — altogether too many varieties of life. Setting out almost with the avowal of a moral purpose, the book leaves us at the end quite uncertain what its purpose is, or what it is meant to teach. If it be to expose the wickedness of American slavery, then we have to complain of most superficial handling of a subject which the author has not investigated. If it be to exalt the Christianity of the Broad Church above the Christianity of the High Church, or the fanatical extravagances of Dissent, in that there is signal failure. The most attractive character in the book is a free-thinker

and materialist, a reckless, good-natured adventurer, who takes the world well enough, and does not trouble himself about responsibility, the future life, religion, or the judgment of God. This unbeliever is evidently the author's favorite, as he inevitably becomes the reader's favorite. But we presume Mr. Kingsley does not intend to offer the free and easy Tom Thurnall as a specimen of a Broad Church Christian.

But accuracy and consistency must not be expected from such an ardent and rapid writer. We must be content, if we would enjoy his brilliant paragraphs, to have the jumble of scenes and incidents. We must take the absurdities along with the splendors, the flings and sarcasms along with the noble sentiments. The ground tone of all Mr. Kingsley's novels is pure and noble. He has a generous hatred of shams and empty forms, of meanness and narrowness, which constrains admiration. There is nothing sardonic in his eccentricity. He is a poor logician and critic, but a true poet. He takes liberties with nature and life, as bold, and often as grotesque, as Turner in his landscapes. Yet, after all, like Turner, he is a great artist. As a novel, we cannot help thinking that *Two Years Ago* is inferior to *Amyas Leigh* and *Hypatia*;—it is easier to see the eccentricities when the scene and the *dramatis personæ* are of our own time. Yet its fascination is positive and genuine, as it would be should Mr. Kingsley go into the future, and construct a story of the twentieth century. Where he invents, he is charming; but where he borrows other men's inventions, or uses historical facts, he fails to satisfy. He can tell his own tale, but cannot well repeat another's story.

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8. — *Mind and Matter, or Physiological Inquiries. In a Series of Essays, intended to illustrate the Mutual Relations of the Physical Organization and the Mental Faculties.* By SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE, Bart., D. C. L., Vice-President of the Royal Society. With Additional Notes, by an American Editor. New York: G. P. Putnam & Co. 1857. 16mo. pp. 287.

WE presume that the author of this volume is Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, for more than fifty years one of the noted physiologists and surgeons of England, and, since the retirement of Sir Astley Cooper, the first surgeon of the royal household. His essays, numerous, and on a great variety of medical subjects, are yet fragmentary, and have not, so far as we know, been collected to form a regular scientific work. His permanent contributions to science have not equalled his high reputa-